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Atherstone
Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

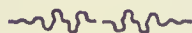
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Atherstone
Rural District Council



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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1955.

ATHERSTONE NEWS PRESS, LONG STREET

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE DISTRICT

The Rural District of Atherstone lies practically in the centre of England, in the northern part of the County of Warwickshire. High ground rises to the west forming a lovely range of hills in places about 500 feet in height.

The busy trunk road known as Watling Street (A5) passes through the town of Atherstone and the middle of the rural district, as also does the main London-Crewe railway line and the Coventry Canal.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. At the beginning of Norman times Atherstone appears to have been well established, and was entered in the Domesday Book as Aderstone.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

The interests of Atherstone have always been industrial, commercial and agricultural. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works and other minor industries. Splendid opportunities exist for the introduction of new as well as the extension of some of the industries.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 31st December, 1955.

Chairman:

Councillor J. SANDERS.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor P. HASTINGS.

Councillors:

Mrs. E. E. Blower, Mrs. D. M. Phillips, Mrs. S. A. Wood, Mr. E. Bond, Mr. W. H. Knight, Mr. G. S. Collins, Mr. E. Dingley, Mr. C. B. Ford, Mr. T. H. Lea, Mr. E. W. Mellor, Mr. A. Morris, Mr. T. A. Sharpe, Mr. T. Smith, Mr. A. L. Standley, Mr. F. S. Turner, Mr. F. G. Young.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

S. B. ACTON, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector:

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

P. HIBBERT, M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistants:

JOHN VERTIGAN

(H.M. Forces, June, 1953)

PAMELA A. WEBB.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ATHERSTONE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ATHERSTONE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ATHERSTONE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

There were 28 fewer births in the Rural District in 1955 than in the preceding year, resulting in a fall in the corrected birth rate from 16.7 in 1954 to 15.6 in 1955. This fall is of no statistical importance. An examination of the Table on page 9 will show that since 1950 the number of births has remained almost steady with only slight variations above and below 400 per annum, giving an average birth rate which compares closely with that for the whole of England and Wales during the same period.

Deaths increased by 50 from 225 in 1954 to 275 in 1955. This increase can be largely accounted for by additional deaths due to cancer, heart disease and accidents. Among the cancer deaths it is of interest to note that of 6 persons who died of lung cancer during the year 5 were males. This represents 17% of all male cancer deaths.

The high incidence of lung cancer in men has been statistically related to smoking and to exposure to atmospheric pollution. Those of us who are addicted to tobacco know how difficult it is to break this pernicious habit and for this reason I feel that we should all do what we can to convince young people that it is better not to start smoking at all. With regard to atmospheric pollution much has already been done by your Sanitary Inspectors in the past to secure the abatement of smoke nuisances, but much remains to be done. By far the greater proportion of the smoke which contaminates the air we breathe comes not from factory chimneys but from the ordinary dwelling house. Since the war many householders have installed continuous burning grates designed for the use of smokeless fuel. Unfortunately, however, this type of fuel is scarce in many areas and in a mining community such as is found in the Rural District the use of smokeless fuel is actively discouraged by the policy of the Coal Board in continuing their free coal allowance to miners. Only when the miner is offered an alternative to this free coal in the form of either smokeless fuel or a money grant, will it be possible to effect a really significant reduction of the smoke in our atmosphere.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

In my Report for 1954, I drew attention to the exceptionally low infant mortality rate for that year of 16.5, at the same time I pointed out that this was probably exceptional, because of the low incidence of non-preventable deaths due to congenital defects and prematurity. During 1955, 15 children died before their first birthday; of these 9 died as a result of prenatally determined conditions, and of the 6 remaining deaths 4 were due to misadventure, leaving only two deaths attributable to infection.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of measles notified during the year was exceptionally high throughout the country and Atherstone did not escape. The local epidemic appeared to start in Coventry early in the year and spread through Bedworth and Nuneaton to reach Atherstone in March. The earliest cases appeared in the south of the Rural District and infection spread gradually north during April and May. By mid-June most of the cases were occurring in and around Polesworth. Altogether 658 cases were notified of which more than 500 occurred during April, May and June. Fortunately the disease was, in the main, of a mild character and the use of Sulphonamides and Antibiotics now reduces the septic complications to a minimum.

Apart from the undesirability on general grounds or having a measles epidemic, it was particularly unfortunate that this one occurred just when it did. During the fortnight commencing 21st March, 1955, a Diphtheria Immunisation Publicity Campaign had been arranged. The staff of the Health Department and especially your Deputy Medical Officer of Health worked extremely hard to make this a success. It was very disheartening therefore when the response to their efforts was less than had been expected, mainly because the prevalence of measles prevented many parents from bringing their children to be immunised.

A sharp outbreak of Dysentery occurred at the end of September. It started in the Atherstone Nursery School, subsequent investigations suggested that the infection originated from a child who had a mild infection while on holiday, which was not recognised as dysentery, and who in consequence was still carrying the organism on returning to school.

The outbreak was immediately investigated and all suspected cases and contacts were excluded. There were some spread to other junior and infant schools, but fortunately the majority of cases were confined to the schools where the infection started.

Altogether some 74 cases were investigated and in 36 of these the organism was recovered from specimens submitted to the laboratory. Three of these positive cases were the children of food handlers working in the school meals service and it was necessary to exclude the parents from work. Cases occurred in diminishing numbers over a period of approximately six weeks, but by mid-November it was possible to report that infection had been virtually eliminated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 47

During the course of the year a number of cases came to the notice of the Public Health Department, in which old people were living alone in such circumstances that it is necessary for them to be admitted either to hospital or to a home for aged persons. Usually it is possible to overcome their objections to leaving their homes, by persuasion. In 1955, for the first time for several years it was necessary to make use of the powers contained in the National Assistance Act, to compel an old person to enter hospital for his own good. This was an elderly resident of Polesworth, who had for some time been living under appalling conditions in a shed in a field near the village and who was adamant in his refusal to leave. Although difficulty had been expected, in the end he consented to go by ambulance to St. Editha's Hospital, Tamworth, where he has since remained. I am happy to report that at the end of the year he appeared to be quite contented there, had improved in health and had been able to visit a number of his friends.

Before closing I wish to express my gratitude to the general practitioners in the Rural District and to the Medical Officers of local hospitals for their continued co-operation. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the service of the Council and especially the staff of the Health Department for their help during the year.

To you, Mr. Chairman, and to all the Members of the Council, I wish to express my appreciation for your consideration and support.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. BRISCOE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,945
Population, census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,847
Population census, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,662
Intercensal increase in population	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,815
Population (mid-year estimate) 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,540
Number of inhabited houses (V.L. January, 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,382
Density of population, i.e. number of persons per acre, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.11
Number of persons per dwelling, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.23
Rateable value of District	...	...	...	...	...	...	£121,135
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£465
Excess of males over females (at Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	416
Parish Population, Estimated 1951—							

Parish	Males	Females	Total
Ansley	1,063	1,016	2,079
Atherstone	2,919	3,001	5,920
Baddesley Ensor	833	747	1,580
Baxterley	195	166	361
Bentley	104	33	187
Caldecote	81	45	126
Grendon	860	809	1,669
Hartshill	1,402	1,378	2,780
Mancetter	978	954	1,932
Merevale	93	120	213
Oldbury	33	39	72
Polesworth	2,086	1,886	3,972
Dordon	1,437	1,336	2,771
			<hr/> 23,662

VITAL STATISTICS —

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	211	186	397
Legitimate	202	184	386
Illegitimate	9	2	11
Birth Rate			16.2
Comparability Factor			0.96
Corrected Birth Rate			15.6
Still-births	5	7	12
Rate per 1,000 births			30.2
Deaths	159	116	275
Death Rate			11.2
Correction Factor			1.10
Corrected Death Rate			12.3
Neo-Natal Deaths			
(under 1 month)	4	4	8
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant deaths (0-12 mnths.)	9	6	15
Legitimate	9	6	15
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate			37.8
Legitimate			37.8
Illegitimate			—

NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR OF 1955

<i>Causes of Death</i>							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, Lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	21	13
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular lesion of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	23	14
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	21	12
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	21	16
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	10	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
							159	116
Total							275	

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY IN ATHERSTONE

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Average 5 years.		
						Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1943	424	19.3	213	9.7	49.5	20.8	10.3	44.4
1944	464	21.2	239	10.9	40.9			
1945	460	21.2	210	9.7	45.7			
1946	487	21.8	241	10.8	47.2			
1947	466	20.7	229	10.2	38.6			
1948	452	19.3	222	9.5	28.8	17.5	9.9	32.1
1949	428	18.1	233	9.8	28.0			
1950	396	16.7	206	8.7	30.3			
1951	397	16.8	252	10.7	35.3			
1952	392	16.6	258	10.9	38.3			
1953	409	17.2	272	11.5	39.1			
1954	425	17.4	225	9.2	16.5			
1955	397	16.2	275	11.2	37.8			

INQUESTS.

	Males	Females	Total
No. of sudden deaths reported to Coroner	18	8	26
No. of Inquests	11	5	16
No. of Post Mortem examinations	9	4	13

Certified cause of death:—

	Males	Females	Total
(a) Natural Causes	9	3	12
(b) Misadventure	3	1	4
(c) Suicide whilst of unsound mind	3	1	4
(d) Found Drowned	1	—	1
(e) Accidental	2	3	5
(f) Stillborn	—	—	—
	18	8	26

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:—

From sepsis	0
Number of deaths from measles (all ages)	0
From other causes	0
Number of deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

BIRTHS.

The number of registered births for 1955 was 397. This was a decrease of 28 over the number recorded in 1954. The birth rate was at its highest (21.8 per 1,000 population) in 1946, and fell year by year to 16.6 in 1952. The birth rate for 1955 is 16.2 per 1,000 population and is greater than that for England and Wales 15.0 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 275 giving a crude death rate of 11.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The standardised death rate for Atherstone is 12.3 the factor for correction being 1.10. This factor being above unity indicates that the Atherstone population is more youthful than the average.

The 1955 death rate for England and Wales was 11.7 and for Warwickshire Administrative County and County Boroughs, was 10.7 per 1,000 of the population.

The Table on page 9 shows death rates for Atherstone district over the past thirteen years.

The diseases and conditions giving rise to the majority of the deaths over the last five years are:—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Diseases of the heart* and blood vessels	89	101	89	73	90
Cerebral haemorrhage	35	42	55	35	37
Cancer	36	30	39	33	53
Violence, accidents and suicide	22	13	28	28	25

INFANT DEATHS

15 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during 1955, 9 were males and 6 were females.

The infantile mortality rate was 37.8 per 1,000 related live births. The rate for England and Wales was 24.9 and for Warwickshire Administrative County and County Boroughs, 24.6 per 1,000 related live births. I have discussed the causes of the infant deaths in my introduction to this Report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Table on page 12 shews the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which have occurred in Atherstone over the last ten years.

The following are the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1955.

	Males	Females	Total
Scarlet Fever	8	7	15
Whooping Cough	17	26	43
Measles	347	311	658
Acute Poliomyelitis:—			
Paralytic	—	1	1
Non-Paralytic	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	33	28	61
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	2
Acute Pneumonia	32	21	53
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	1	4
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Malaria:—			
Contracted Abroad	—	—	—
Indigenous	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
	<hr/> 440	<hr/> 398	<hr/> 838

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

APPENDIX D (I)

Atherstone Rural District Council—Year 1955.

1.—*Local Authority*:—

2.—*Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to R.G.*

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Nil	3	Nil	1	4

3.—*Outbreaks due to identified Agents*:—

Total outbreaks—Nil.

Total Cases—3.

Outbreaks due to:—

(a) Chemical Poisons.—Nil.

(b) Salmonella Organisms.—Two.

(c) Staphylococci (including toxin).—Nil.

(d) Cl. botulinum.—Nil.

(e) Other bacteria.—Nil.

4.—*Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause*:—

Total outbreaks.—Nil.

Total Cases.—Nil.

5.—*Single Cases*:—

Agents identified—One. Unknown cause—Nil. Total—One.

APPENDIX D (II).

The three cases occurring in the 2nd Quarter (see Appendix D(i)), were of children born in the George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton, and still resident there. One was a girl of 6 days and the others were two boys of 11 days of age. All three were transferred to the Whitley Isolation Hospital, Coventry and notified to this District.

The notice of discharge stated Salm. thompsoni.

The single case occurred in a boy aged 8 years. The vehicle of the infection (salm. typhi-murium) was not discovered.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, 1946—1955.

Disease	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	15	34	47	25	22	15	81	18	17	15
Whooping Cough	77	14	84	21	21	69	3	68	16	43
Measles	72	244	144	33	292	230	120	292	66	658
Acute Poliomyelitis:—										
Paralytic	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	8	—	1
Non-Paralytic	—	2	—	—	3	1	—	12	—	1
Diphtheria	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	2	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	2	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	3	61
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Acute Pneumonia	46	60	41	33	46	51	16	22	36	53
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Enteric or typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	5	14	4
Malaria:—										
Contracted abroad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Indigenous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	8	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	4	—

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
TABLE I

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	100	21	74	28	223
(b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time in year	9	4	5	1	19
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	1	—	1
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by formal notification	3	—	—	—	3
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	26	5	8	4	43
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December	86	20	72	25	203

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS
REGISTER 1948—1955.

TABLE II

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1948	103	33	136	33	4	37	10	1	11
1949	117	34	151	26	5	31	6	2	8
1950	123	36	159	18	5	23	10	1	11
1951	132	40	172	30	8	38	7	3	10
1952	146	47	193	28	12	40	6	2	8
1953	160	50	210	24	8	32	4	1	5
1954	174	49	223	29	2	31	3	—	3
1955	158	45	203	18	5	23	2	—	2

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory in Coventry accepts specimens sent for examination. Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, Public Analysts, Birmingham, are also frequently employed by the Council.

A small supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin is held in the Health Department in the Council Offices and anti-toxin is also available from the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry and from the Hospitals.

THE GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

The General Practitioners Service is administered by the Warwickshire Executive Council; eight medical practitioners live in the district, but others living outside have extended their activities to cover parts of the district.

There are no general hospital services directly available within the district, but Out-patients and In-patients facilities are available at the Nuncaton and Tamworth Hospitals. Cases of infectious disease are usually admitted to Whitley Hospital, Coventry, and a small percentage of cases requiring special treatment are admitted to Birmingham Hospitals. The bed accommodation for Tuberculosis patients is largely provided for at Hertford Hill Sanatorium, Nr. Warwick, but various other Sanatoria within the Birmingham Hospital Region are also used. Out-patients facilities are available at the Dispensary, Market Street, Atherstone, each Monday by appointment.

The Warwickshire County Council are responsible for the administration of the School Health Service, and for arrangements for Domiciliary Nursing, Domestic Helps, Vaccination and Immunisation, the care of Mothers and Young Children, the Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care and the Ambulance Service as laid down in Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946. With the exception of the Ambulance Service, the day to day administration of these services is under the control of the Area Medical Officer of Health, Council House, Nuncaton. The Ambulance Depot is at Swan Farm, Watling Street, Grendon.

A General Purposes Clinic is situated in Station Street, Atherstone. Infant Welfare and School Clinics are held in and conducted in these premises and sessions are held at which the Speech Therapist, Dentist and Eye Specialist attend. An Orthopaedic exercise clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons. A school Dental Officer covers Bedworth and Atherstone and is at present devoting two full days a week to treatment.

INFANT WELFARE SERVICE

Station Street, Atherstone	Infant Welfare Clinic	Wednesdays (2—4 p.m.)
Church Hall, Ansley	„	Wednesdays (2—4 p.m.)
Village Hall, Dordon	„	Alternate Mondays (2—4 p.m.)
Parish Hall, Polesworth	„	Alternate Tuesdays (2—4 p.m.)
Weselyan Hall, Baddesley	„	Alternate Fridays (2—4 p.m.)

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Station Street, Atherstone	Minor Ailments Clinic,	Wednesdays (9—12 noon).
„	Ophthalmic Clinic	Mondays a.m. Monthly by appointment.
„	Speech Therapy Clinic	Mondays p.m. Monthly by appointment.
„	Orthopaedic Exercises Clinic	Tuesdays p.m. by appointment.
„	Dental Clinic	Tuesdays and Fridays (all day by appointment)
Nursing Home, Polesworth	Minor Ailments Clinic	Alternate Tuesdays (9 a.m.)
Nurses Home, Hartshill	Minor Ailments	Daily (8.30—9 a.m.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES, ATHERSTONE.
May, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ATHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirteenth Annual Report on my part of the work of the Public Health Department.

At the end of 1955, there were 7,382 premises in our District which were occupied as dwellings. 6,348 of these were of £16 or less rateable value, of which number 3,056 (48.1%) were fit in all respects, but 1,826 (28.7%) of these fit in all respects houses were Council owned. 1,462 (23.0%) were suffering from minor defects; 1,191 (18.8%) were in need of extensive repair, structural alteration or improvement and 639 (10.1%) (including 41 Merevale Park Hutments) were beyond repair at reasonable expense or dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants and will have to be condemned.

This information was obtained from a check in 1955, of the findings of my Atherstone Rural Housing Survey of 1947, and led to the Council informing the Minister of Housing and Local Government in July, 1955, that 598 privately owned houses in the District were to be condemned and that the period of years required for replacement was then estimated at twelve.

However, in the autumn of 1955, the subsidy on houses built for letting to ordinary applicants was reduced to £10, but retained at the figure of £22 1s. 0d. for houses erected to replace "slum" dwellings.

In November, the Council decided that the first one hundred houses on the Atherstone North Site, which were approved by the Ministry and booked for £22 1s. 0d. subsidy, should be allocated to families on the Council's waiting lists, but all further houses erected would be for families displaced from dwellings to be condemned. Unless prevented by financial reasons, we should now find that the estimated period of twelve years for "slum" clearance will, in the light of new conditions, be halved.

Also in November, the Council decided to complete Stage I of the Atherstone North Housing Site by the erection of 170 houses for families to be displaced from the 41 Merevale Park Hutments and from 129 "slum" dwellings. With the subsidy reduction, the Ministry's house allocation policy ceased and the Council could then decide the number of houses to be built, without making reference to higher authority.

I have recently been preparing "slum" clearance schemes for the 129 dwellings in one Parish. Tenants in one-third of these do not want to leave their present homes because of the rent increases they will have to face. Only the younger age groups of married persons are pleased to anticipate removal.

Middle aged parents more naturally expect to finish life as they began—without children in the home—and maybe alone as a widow or widower with a low level income. The elderly, almost without exception, would prefer to finish their days in the generally small, damp, dark and ill-conceived cottages to which they have become accustomed.

At the end of December, 1955, there were 310 lodger-families on the Council's waiting lists and 396 tenants of dwellings. A total of 706 applicant-families. The waiting-list was totally renewed in October, 1954.

The local Registrar of Births and Deaths has informed me that there are around two-hundred marriages each year in the Atherstone District. I found over the first ten post-War years of Council house letting, that an average of one hundred of these couples each year came on, and remained on, the Council's waiting lists as lodger-applicants. Through the cessation of building for the house needy, I expect that in five years' time the number of lodger-applicants on the waiting lists of this Council will be seven hundred at least, and the increase to this figure will be prevented only by a complete change in the Council's economically enforced housing policy.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the help and support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and to say that I am fortunate in having an excellent staff in the Public Health Department.

Commending this Report to your notice.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during 1955. Property owners in this District have, for obvious reasons, made very little use of Part II (Repairs Increase) of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

A list of works carried out at premises following informal and statutory action, concludes this Report.

The following Table is made up from Returns sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES PART A.—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

				NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN THE PERIOD		Number of persons displaced
				Unfit houses	Other houses	
(1) Land coloured pink and pink and hatched yellow	—	—	—
(2) Land coloured grey	—	—	—

PART B.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

Houses demolished or closed in the period.

		NUMBER OF	
		Houses	Persons displaced
(1) Housing Act, 1936.			
(a) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	...	—	—
(b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	...	—	—
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	...	—	—
(2) Housing Act, 1949.			
Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3(1) and 3(2)		—	—
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.			
Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2)		6	21

Number of Houses

REPAIRS in the period.

(4) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.	...	89
(5) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice:—		
Houses in which defects were remedied		
(a) By owners	...	5
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	—
(6) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16): Houses made fit:—		
(a) By owners	...	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	—
(7) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954		
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	...	—

PART C.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY

Number of Houses

USE. (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).
Position at end of period:

(8) (a) Houses retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	...	—
(b) Separate dwellings contained in (a) above	...	—
(c) Houses licenced for temporary occupation (Section 6)	...	—

PART D.—PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT.

- (9) Houses in Clearance Areas, other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the period ... —

WATER SUPPLIES

In addition to our other sources of water supply referred to in the 1954 Report, we commenced in August, 1955, to draw some 1,700 gallons of water per day for Hartshill and part of the Ansley Parish, from the new Oldbury Reservoir, which has been built by Nuneaton Corporation in connection with the Nuneaton—Atherstone Water Supply Scheme.

During 1955, forty-six samples of Council main water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and to the Public Analysts for chemical and bacteriological examination. Three only of these proved slightly unsatisfactory. Attention to the chlorination plant at a Pumping Station resulted in repeat samples being satisfactory.

Seventeen shallow well waters which are used for domestic water supply at farms and isolated cottages were also submitted for examination. Four of these were satisfactory. "Meta-filters" were fixed to pumps to three wells serving other cottages, whilst an enquiry for Council main water supplies had been received in respect of the majority of the others and was under consideration at the year end.

My Annual Report for 1954 contained a table shewing the number of dwellings in the District and the sources of water supply. At that time only 168 of 7,310 dwellings had shallow well supplies.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Since the Contract was made in January, 1954, good progress has been seen in the provision of new and relief sewers and pumping stations in Atherstone and Mancetter and the construction of the new Atherstone Sewage Works. The Contract should be completed in or about July, 1956.

Thereafter some thirty properties at Watling Street, Witherley, will be connected to the sewer; pollution of roadside ditches from cesspit overflows will be prevented and fifteen pail closets replaced by water closets.

It is regrettable that the old village of Mancetter was excluded from this original sewerage scheme. There, some fifty-odd dwellings discharge via cesspools, crude sewage liquor into the River Anker. I hope that the sewer extension will be allowed soon after completion of the present Contract.

Contracts were made early in 1955, for the provision of new sewers and sewage disposal works for the hamlets of Ridge Lane and Birchley Heath. The completion of the Contracts is anticipated by mid-March, 1956. Conversion to water carriage system of the Birchley Heath hamlet will prevent the fouling of ditches from the overflows of cesspits serving some 40 houses and reduced by one-tenth the number of premises in the District from which night-soil has to be removed.

In Jan., 1956, a Public Local Enquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, into the sewerage and sewage disposal works proposals for Polesworth, Dordon, Warton

and Birchmoor. Consulting Engineers have been employed for some years in drawing up the scheme.

COLLIERY SPOIL BANKS

In July, 1955, the Baddesley Colliery Unit of the National Coal Board, dis-used the spoil bank to the north-east of the village of Baxterley, except for the deposit of boiler ashes.

This spoil bank had been burning throughout my thirteen years in Atherstone and reliable information I have been given is to the effect that the bank has been on fire for at least sixty years.

However, from 1943 to 1947, the spoil was a source of mild complaint on a few occasions, but from 1948 until spoil tipping ceased it was a source of recurring and serious complaint for which there was ample reason. The improvement of underground conditions, enlarging of roadways leading to greater waste output, and the cutting of pyrites bearing coal seams, allied to insufficient removal of combustible material, led to extensive areas of fire and grave deterioration in the condition of the atmosphere in the neighbourhood of the spoil bank, and in times of humidity the smell of sulphur was obvious three miles away, as I, in my own experience know.

The now dis-used spoil bank is situated some four-hundred-and-fifty and more yards away from the Rose Inn, which one might assume to be the centre of Baxterley Village.

The new spoil bank site which was commenced in July, 1955, is in Baxterley Park, between small Baxterley and sizeable Baddesley Ensor villages. It was to this site that the National Coal Board was directed following a Public Local Enquiry in 1951, at which this Council supported the National Coal Board for the extension of the existing spoil bank away from the Baxterley Village and the Merevale Estate, who were opposed to this, contended that the Baxterley Park should be used. The Merevale Estate were supported by the Warwickshire County Council and the Warwickshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

In May, 1953, a Meeting of National Coal Board officials and Local Government members and officials, together with Dr. L. E. Hockin, the Ministry's Area Inspector of Alkali &c. Works, took place at the Baddesley Colliery to agree planning conditions for the new spoil bank. My suggestions regarding deposit of the spoil in layers, temperature taking; fire control; scraping of soil from site and covering base and part bank sides and possible installation of a washery were rejected and eventually planning conditions were agreed which were disappointing to me and which I knew could only lead to ungovernable fires in the bank.

To-day, my evidence at the Public Enquiry of 1951 and at the Meeting of May, 1953, has been borne out. Less than nine months use of the new spoil bank reveals the existence of extensive fires and unless drastic measures are taken forthwith and better methods of control adopted and maintained at all times, there is no doubt that a serious public health nuisance will arise, increasing as the spoil bank grows, and becoming far worse than was ever the case when the old bank was in use, for the number of persons then closely affected was few, whilst there are about two thousand living relatively near to the new spoil bank site.

In our Rural District there are three other coal mines with spoil banks. All three spoil banks are burning, but are so positioned that serious nuisance does not arise from them.

In the time that has elapsed between the writing and printing of this part of the Report, I have discussed the Baddesley Spoil Bank and measures which should be taken with Mr. J. S. Rayner, the recently appointed Area General Manager of the National Coal Board. Measures of control of the present bank which we then agreed, and which were put into operation, have temporarily freed the bank from serious nuisance. Mr. Rayner is in favour of layer tipping of the mine refuse and a scheme for carrying this out and disusing the cone method, for which Mr. Rayner was not responsible, is being adopted. The layering system will possibly be in use before the end of this year.

Whilst the work of controlling fire in the spoil bank was proceeding complains decided the Council to ask Mr. R. Moss, M.P., to bring the matter of the Baddesley Spoil Bank on to the floor of the House of Commons. This, Mr. Moss did.

A Meeting of Mr. Rayner and other N.C.B. officials with members and officials of this Council was held early in September. This meeting resulted in general satisfaction and confidence that in the future the method of depositing spoil and control measures to be adopted will go as far as economically possible to preventing and arresting combustion and to alleviating serious nuisance.

I would like to record my appreciation of the interest and advice in connection with Baddesley Spoil Bank, of Dr. L. E. Hockin, Inspector of Alkali &c. Works, Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour in twelve of our thirteen parishes. In Atherstone Parish a Contractor is employed, but the Council provide and maintain the refuse vehicle used. A weekly collection of some 400 pail closets throughout the area is done by direct labour.

Of refuse vehicles we have five S.D. Freighters, one 1946, two 1948, one 1950 and one 1951, and a Morris Commercial Tanker (1937) for pail closet collection.

The Council does not undertake the emptying of cesspits in any part of the District. A Public Cleansing Contractor frequently comes into our area and he is generally employed by those needing this service.

In 1949, the Council adopted the Conditions of Service of the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Manual Workers together with the Sickness Benefit Scheme and two weeks annual paid holiday.

During the year absence of refuse collection and disposal employees totalled 72 days, whilst medically certified illness amounted to 193 days. 189 of these were in the first quarter of the year. Only four days for illness of one tip man occurred in the other three-quarters. In 1954, work days lost were 44 for absence and 271 for illness.

The cost of the Sickness Benefit Scheme on Refuse Collection and Disposal employees since its inception has been:—

YEAR		£	s.	d.
1949 (one quarter)	...	18	6	5
1950	... ..	78	19	4
1951	... ..	107	4	0
1952	... ..	166	11	2
1953	... ..	233	8	11
1954	... ..	209	16	10
1955	... ..	62	2	11

In May, 1955, the Council adopted a bonus payment scheme for the refuse collection employees on the route in the northern part of the area. Its success was immediately apparent and employees in the central area route were given the same terms in July. At the end of the year the Council approved extension of the Bonus Scheme to all employees from the 1st April, 1956.

The following table shews the numbers of premises cleared of refuse, pails, privies and dry-pits emptied per year for the last five years.

Years	Premises Cleared	Pails	Privies	Ashpits
1951	140,290	20,950	25	13
1952	213,166	21,705	15	5
1953	213,498	22,476	8	5
1954	226,579	22,897	7	—
1955	253,416	23,783	6	4

The cost of the collection and disposal of refuse and night-soil for the year ended 31st March, 1956, was £10,743.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Clock Hill Tip, Hartshill, has been used throughout the year for the controlled tipping of refuse from the southern part of our area, whilst the Warton Road, Grendon Tip has been used to receive refuse from the northern part of the District. In the late summer months pit holes on the Atherstone Outwoods and at a farm in Baxterley were filled in with house refuse and soiled over.

The number of loads of refuse taken to the tips by the direct labour part of the refuse collection service during 1955, was:—

Hartshill Tip	Grendon Tip	Pit Holes
1,602	946	212

211 loads of night-soil were dealt with at Atherstone Sewage Works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse. (including Kitchen waste and Salvage collected separately).

COST STATEMENT 1955—56.

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5

REVENUE ACCOUNT:—

	£	£	£	%
1 GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
(i) Labour ...	6,047	794	6,841	63
(ii) Transport. ...	2,754	—	2,754	26
(iii) Plant, equip- ment, land and buildings ...	102	8	110	1
(iv) Other items.	1,038	—	1,038	10
(v) Total gross expenditure ...	9,941	802	10,743	100
2 GROSS INCOME ...	—	7	7	—
3 NET COST	9,941	795	10,736	—
4 Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	—	—	—	—
UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5 Gross cost per ton, labour only ...	13 5	1 9	15 2	
6 Gross cost per ton, transport only ...	6 1	—	6 1	
7 Net cost (all expen- diture) per ton ...	22 1 £	1 9 £	23 10 £	
8 Net cost per 1,000 population ...	405	32	437	
9 Net cost per 1,000 premises. ...	1,353	108	1,461	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10 Acres (statute acres)—land and inland water ...	21,945 acres
11 Population at 30th June 1955 (Registrar- General's Estimate)	24,540 persons
12 Total refuse collected (tons) Indicate whether A E or T.	9,002 tons E.
13 Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 populations per day. (365 days to year)	20.1 cwts.
14 Number of premises from which refuse is collected	7,350 premises
15 Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	80% of total
16 Average haul, single journey, of final disposal point (including NIL miles by secondary transport)	2½ miles
17 Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection.	NIL %
18 Total refuse disposal of (of which NIL tons were disposed of for other Local Authorities)	9,002 tons
19 Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):	
(a) Crude tipping	NIL %
(b) Controlled tipping	100 %
(c) Direct incineration	NIL %
(d) Separation and incineration	NIL %
(e) Other methods (state nature)	NIL %
	100 %

20 Salvage Analysis of income and tonnage:

	Income (included in Item 2)	Tonnage collected (included in Item 12)
	£	Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste ..	NIL	NIL
(b) Scrap metal	7	1½
(c) Waste paper	NIL	NIL
(d) Other Salvage	NIL	NIL
(e) Totals	7	1½

21 Trade Refuse:

(a) Income	... ..	NIL £
(b) Tonnage	... ..	NIL Tons

22 Remarks:

Item I (iv) represents the cost of labour for the collection of refuse in the Parish of Atherstone by a contractor. Transport is provided by the Council.

Item I (v) column 2 includes the cost of the weekly collection of 363 pails closets.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

There are, in the district, nearly 300 premises where food is handled in one way or another, excluding Licenced Premises. Each is covered by the Provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Food Handling Byelaws made under Section 15 of that Act. Approximately one half of these premises are shops dealing wholly or partly in groceries and provisions, the remainder being Butchers shops, Cafes and Canteens, Bakehouses and Food Preparation Premises registered under Section 14 of the Act of 1938.

The time available for routine visits to these premises was found to be very limited due to the calls of other duties, particularly Meat Inspection. However, registered premises were visited as also were as many as possible of the food shops, routine visits being supplemented by casual observations made while visiting various premises on other business. A number of minor infringements of the Act and Byelaws were noted, the subsequent informal action being all that was necessary to provide remedies.

Improvements to grocery and provision shops continued to be made. One shop was virtually reconstructed internally and refitted throughout, providing, on completion, first class premises catering for a business previously carried on in two separate and rather unsatisfactory premises.

Early in the year a new cafe was opened to cater almost exclusively for transport. The advice of this Department was taken before the premises were opened. Two works canteens were completely repainted internally.

One new premise was opened for the business of Fish Frying but two have been closed, one of them after less than a year in business. The new premise is a temporary structure but

of adequate size and in accordance with requirements of the Act and Byelaws. Of the 23 Fish Frying premises still in existence 5 were out of use during most of 1955.

The bakehouses in the district were all visited. From casual observation it appears that the amount of bread and confectionery brought into the district to small general shops has continued to increase and observations on this point are made when the shops concerned are visited.

New premises registered for the storage and sale only of Ice Cream numbered five and the one premise where this commodity is manufactured continued to operate, sales being made both from the shop and a vehicle.

Six samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry, all of them having been taken from the premise of the above named manufacturer. The results of bactediological examinations are set out below.

Grade 1	—	3
Grade 2	—	2
Grade 3	—	1
Grade 4	—	0
		—
Total		6
		—

The numbers of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are set out below and a list of works of improvement or repair carried out during the year will be found at the end of this report.

Fried Fish and Chips Shops	...	...	...	...	23
Preparation of Cooked Meats, etc.	...	...	...	...	32
Sale and Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	86

OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING 1955

		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
507	Tins Meat, Milk, Fish Fruit			
	Vegetables &c.	4	3	12
	Hams (Tinned and Green)		3	11
	Sausages		2	21
	Dried Fruit			21
	Cheese		1	26
		8	0	7

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Seven slaughter-houses, three in the northern part of our Area and two each in the central and southern parts, were licenced to the end of 1955. In two of these slaughter-houses, no animals were killed during the year. Renewals of licences were effected in all cases for the year 1956.

The following table shews the numbers of animals dealt with in the slaughter-houses during the year.

<i>Slaughter-houses</i>	<i>Cattle excl. Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
No. 1 Central	1,699	92	66	3,565	4,515
No. 2 „	298	27	10	804	903
No. 1 North	8	—	1	31	24
No. 2 „	—	—	—	—	—
No. 3 „	—	—	—	—	—
No. 1 South	102	32	4	233	183
No 2 „	108	4	6	392	193
Totals	2,215	155	87	5,025	5,818

At the “ No. 1 Central ” Slaughter-house, the killing and dressing of animals is carried on seven days each week, as also is meat inspection and dead-weight pigs certification for the Ministry of Food. The standards of cleanliness are very satisfactory in all the licensed slaughter-houses.

PIGS — DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION

There are two slaughter-houses in the District which are approved as Deadweight Certification Centres.

Your two Additional Sanitary Inspectors and myself are appointed Certifying Officers for the Ministry of Food.

During 1955, we certified 1,509 pigs for deadweight subsidy payments.

MEAT INSPECTION

The following table shews the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected and affected with diseases which necessitated condemnation of carcasses or parts and of organs.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	and Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	.. .. .	155 (15)	87 (108)	5,025 (2,931)	5,818 (2,104)	— (—)
Number inspected	2,215 (1,199)	155	87	5,025	5,818	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCY						
Whole carcasses condemned	1 (1)	3 (—)	— (1)	2 (1)	5 (—)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	607 (340)	46 (32)	1 (1)	22 (26)	724 (154)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	27.4 (28.4)	31.6 (49.2)	1.2 (1.9)	0.5 (0.9)	12.3 (7.3)	— (—)
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcass condemned	2 (1)	2 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)	2 (1)	— (—)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	229 (238)	35 (27)	— (—)	— (—)	153 (82)	— (—)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.5 (19.9)	23.8 (41.5)	3.4 (—)	— (—)	2.7 3.9	— (—)
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2 (5)	— (—)*	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2 (5)	— (—)*	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Generalised and totally condemned	— (—)	— (—)*	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

The bracketed figures apply to the period 2nd July, 1954 (meat de-rated) to 31st December, 1954.

It will be noticed that the percentage of bovines affected with tuberculosis, fell by almost one-half in 1955.

Only 2 oxen, 0.09 per centum (0.4 per centum in 1954), were found to contain the larval stage cysts of the tapeworm, *taenia inermis* of man. In both cases only one cyst was found in the outer masseter muscles, though other sites of predilection were thoroughly examined.

FRESH MEAT, QUANTITY CONDEMNED, 1955.

<i>Detail</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
DUE TO DISEASES OTHER THAN				
TUBERCULOSIS:				
Carcases parts and organs of Oxen ...	4	19	0	23
Carcases parts and organs of Calves ...				10
Carcases parts and organs of Sheep ..		1	2	22
Carcases parts and organs of Pigs		19	2	5
DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS				
ONLY				
Carcases parts and organs of Oxen . . .	7	0	3	24
Carcases parts and organs of Calves ...		1	0	6
Carcases parts and organs of Pigs ...	1	2	2	3
Total	14	5	0	9

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 — 1954

For 1956, 34 slaughtermen's licences have been renewed and 3 new licences have been issued.

MILK SUPPLIES AND DAIRIES

Our Register under the Acts and Regulations contains the following:—

Milk Distributors	24
Dairies	12
Supplementary Pasteurised Licences	3
Supplementary Sterilised Licences	2
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested Licences	3
Dealers' Pasteurised Licences	16
Dealers' Sterilised Licences	7
Dealers' Tuberculin Tested Licences	6

Distributors are generally found to keep their dairies and utensils in clean and satisfactory condition.

Local sanitary authorities have duties in connection with the distributon of milk and distributors' dairies, other than those at farms, and the use of measures to protect the public against the sale of milk which might cause disease, but the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the administration of laws and regulations governing the production of milk at farms.

During 1955, the County Health Department submitted milks for biological examinations and arising from these, ungraded milks from seven herds were found to contain living

tubercule bacilli. In all cases the milk was being sold to Dairying firms at whose premises it was pasteurised before sale for human consumption. As required by the 1949 Regulations, notice restricting the supply of infected milk was served in each case.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SAMPLING OFFICER UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—1950.

Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Warwickshire County Council, has sent a Report on his activities in our area during 1955. I would commend his following Report to your notice.

I have the honour to report that within the area of the Atherstone Rural District 101 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, during the year ended the 31st December, 1955. The samples consisted of:—

Milk 72, of which 14 were unsatisfactory.
Miscellaneous foods ... 19, of which one was unsatisfactory.
Miscellaneous drugs ... 10, of which two were unsatisfactory.

The particulars relative to the unsatisfactory samples, are as follows:—

MILK:

With one exception, the discrepancies were not of serious consequence and did not call for special attention, although the results were reported to the vendors concerned. In the one case referred to, the fat deficiency was as much as 28% and affected sterilised milk processed by a small dairy firm. Subsequently, checks were made of all the milk supplied to the dairy, but these were satisfactory. The processing plant used at the dairy appeared to be in proper order and, although it was not possible to ascertain the precise cause of the serious discrepancy involved, it seemed likely that this may have been due to some milk not having been thoroughly mixed as it was transferred from the churn to the plant. Numerous samples have been obtained from the dairy in question, over a period of towards twenty years, without previous complaint of this nature, and having regard to this and to the satisfactory results of other samples of milk which were subsequently procured at the dairy, it was decided to caution the vendor concerned.

Only one other instance of milk which proved to be deficient of fat is perhaps worthy of mention. This concerned samples, from a large producer of milk, several of which were below the requisite limit. "Appeal to Cow" samples showed no improvement and the deficiencies were clearly due to natural causes. The vendor concerned was advised to seek the help of the County Milk Production Officer with a view to effecting some improvement.

MISCELLANEOUS FOODS.

Pork sausage—contained 209 parts per million of sulphur dioxide.

The meat content of this product proved to be satisfactory, but the presence of preservative in the form of sulphur dioxide was not declared, by notice, at the place of sale, as required by the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food Regulations. The amount contained in the sample was, however, within that permitted. The attention of the vendor was drawn to the relevant requirements.

MISCELLANEOUS DRUGS.

- (1) Tincture of iodine—contained an excess of iodine and potassium iodide.
- (2) Iron tonic—deficient of Vitamin B.1.

The above two samples were obtained at a branch shop belonging to a firm of grocers and general dealers. Both discrepancies were no doubt caused by unsatisfactory storage conditions. The results were brought to the notice of the Company concerned, who immediately took steps to prevent any further cause for similar complaint.

The above details relate to samples which were actually submitted for analysis by the County Analyst. In addition, however, attention was given to the marking provisions of the Labelling of Food Order, 1953, the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941, and the Regulations dealing with preservatives in food and the sale of dried and condensed milk.

J. S. PRESTON,
Chief Sampling Officer.

FACTORIES

At the end of the year there were 105 factories entered on the Factory Register, 27 of these being temporary entries in respect of building sites, etc. Only 4 of the 78 factories are without power and in these Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the Factories Act, 1937, are enforced by the District Council but in the remaining factories where power is used Section 7 only is the responsibility of this Authority.

The provisions of Section 34 of the Act, in respect of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire, are considered when factories are visited. It was not found necessary to amend any Certificates, but new Certificates were issued in respect of three factories which opened during the year.

Outworkers, employed exclusively in the making of wearing apparel numbered 43.

Completely new closet accommodation was provided at one factory which, due to re-organisation, had been left without separate accommodation.

Other defects found and remedied, together with the number of factories and visits made to them, are listed in the tables set out below.

	No. on Reg.	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
(i) Factories where Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by L.A. . .	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories where Section 7 only enforced by L.A.	74	97	9	—
(iii) Other factories where Section 7 enforced by L.A. (Building Sites, etc.)	27	24	—	—
Totals	105	125	9	—

		Defects found	Defects remedied
Unsatisfactory means of fire escape	.. ..	3	3
Want of Cleanliness	(S1)	—	—
Overcrowding	(S2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	(S3)	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	(S4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	(S6)	—	—
Sanitary conveniences	(S7)		
(a) Insufficient	.. ..	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	.. ..	17	16
(c) No separate for sexes	.. ..	—	—
(d) Other offences against the Act.	.. ..	4	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Enquiries are made into notified cases of infectious diseases and disinfections of houses, bedding and clothing are carried out when necessary.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylatic measures in houses where infectious disease exist is carried out from six premises in various parts of the District and from the Public Health Department.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no premises in the district where offensive trades are carried on.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Byelaws made under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, restrict the emission of black smoke to two minutes in any period of thirty minutes.

Casual observations on all factory chimneys are made during routine work and visits; timed observations being carried out whenever casual observations indicated possible infringement of the Byelaws.

Fifteen timed observations were made during the year on five factory chimneys.

The results of the observations are given below. Managements and stokers were seen and advised when necessary. The infringements were not serious and no legal proceedings were taken.

Factory	Obs. 1955 No.	MINUTES OF SMOKE.			Total
		Black	Moderate	None or Slight	
No. 1	1	4	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{4}$	30
	4	1	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	30
	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	30
No. 2	2	1	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	30
	9	—	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	23 $\frac{1}{4}$	30
	14	—	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	49 $\frac{3}{4}$	60
No. 3	3	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{3}{4}$	30
	6	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	30
	7	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	30
	10	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	30
	12	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	60
	15	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{3}{4}$	30

No. 4	8	3½	3½	23	30
	11	—	24½	5½	30
No. 5	13	7½	4½	48½	60

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food bears one-half of the cost of rodent destruction.

The Council employs one Rodent Operative, Mr. R. Archer, who, unfortunately, had to enter hospital in mid-May for operative treatment for hernias and at the end of the year he had not recovered sufficiently to return to work.

In March sewers throughout the District were given treatment for the destruction of rats therein. 256 manholes were baited; 71 showed pre-bait takes. Rusk with 2½% Zinc Phosphide was used for poisoning.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1956.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	| — NON-AGRICULTURAL — |				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Dwelling				
	Local Auth- ority	Houses inc. Council Houses)	All other inc. Business Premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	| Agri- cultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2).	20	6934	966	7920	157
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	—	22	7	29	—
(b) Survey under the Act.	4	160	8	172	10
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	16	8	2	26	—
3. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections. (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	—	—	—	—	—
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	10	66	10	86	—
(b) Mice					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	5	3	8	—

TYPE OF PROPERTY				
| — NON-AGRICULTURAL — |				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Dwelling				
| Houses All other Total |				
Local inc.	inc.	inc.	of Cols.	|
Auth- Council Business 1, 2 Agri-	Houses) Premises) and 3 cultural			
ority				

5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sec. 4).	10	71	13	94	—
6. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	16	71	18	105	—
7. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings (see over)	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	—	—	—	—	—

WORKS DONE AT PRIVATE PREMISES BY OWNERS
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955,
FOLLOWING INFORMAL AND STATUTORY ACTION BY
THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

EXTERNAL

HOUSING.

Walls—

Raked and repointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	27
Vertical damp proofing of walls	...	...	...	...	...	5
Open areas constructed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased	...	...	...	...	...	3

Roofs—

Stripping and re-slatted or re-tiled	...	...	...	...	...	3
Repaired and made weather-proof	...	...	...	...	...	29
Skylights repaired	...	...	...	...	...	—

Gutterings—

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	22
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Downspouts—

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	16
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Chimney Stacks—

Wholly or in part taken down and re-built	...	...	...	...	...	8
Raked and re-pointed	8

Yards, Courts and Passages—

Taken up and re-laid or concreted	10
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Water Supply—

Laid on into houses	5
Standpipes dis-used	—
Wells dis-used	1
New pumps provided to wells, or repaired	2
Bursts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6

Drainage—

New lengths drain and/or drainage system provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	8
New inspection chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective inspection chamber covers replaced	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation shafts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cesspools cleared	...	...	...	...	...	12
Obstructed drains released	...	...	...	...	...	13
Septic tanks or percolating beds built or improved	...	...	...	...	...	2

Closet Accommodation—

New W.C. compartments built	...	...	...	...	...	6
New pedestals fixed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Conversion to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	—
W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments	...	...	...	...	...	3

Washing Accommodation—

New wash-house built	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dilapidated coppers repaired	5

Ashes Accommodation—

New ash bins provided	287
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INTERNAL

[illegible]

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES AND SHOPS

Walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors, utensils fittings, etc., cleansed, repaired or renewed	8
New making-up rooms provided	...	...	...	...	—
Washing basins, soaps, towels, hot and cold water provided or arrangements improved	...	...	...	...	4
New sanitary accommodation provided or existing improved	...	...	...	...	2
Other miscellaneous matters	...	...	...	...	6

LICENSED PREMISES

Bar Sink/s and hot water provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improved sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	—
New sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	—

MISCELLANEOUS

Rat infested premises cleared by Rodent Operative	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Keeping of animals nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

